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Title: Need to start the work of doubling the railway line from Panskura to Haldia and provide stoppage of Express Trains at Mechado Station, West Bengal.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Haldia has emerged as a leading industrial hub following presence of Haldia Port and Dock Refinery of IOC, Petrochemicals, Hindustan Lever, TATA Chemicals, Mitsubishi PTA plant.

Handling of cargo by Haldia Port is about 46 Million Tons. Most of the traffic is being handled by South Eastern Railways, which generates approximately 60% of its revenue from Haldia.

The Inter City Express Train which was introduced by the former Railway Minister has been withdrawn due to single line from Panskura to Haldia. This line is also meant for accommodating goods train. You were kind enough to announce doubling of Panskura to Haldia section in rail budget.

This job was allotted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Now it understood that on the plea of non-bankable project RVNL is reluctant to undertake the doubling works.

I propose that this project be implemented by South Eastern Railway from its budget fund. Further, Mechada Station is nearby Tamluk which is Headquarter of newly created district namely Purba Medinipur. Population of Purba Medinipur is about 46 lakh. The people of the District avail express train either at Howrah or at Kharagpur which is about 130 km. Besides Haldia which is leading industrial but is adjacent to Mechada Station.

The people of Purba Medinipur District will be highly benefited if the Express trains stop at Mechada Station.

I would request Hon'ble Railway Minister to accord the approval for execution of the double line by South Easter Railway and Stoppage of the Express Trains at Mechada Station.